Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Mercosur Holds Meeting on Macroeconomic Policies Disagreement *[NOTICIAS 22 Apr]* 1
Ad Hoc Commission Created *[ABC COLOR 24 Apr]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Writes Camaguey Tile Factory Workers *[Havana Radio]* 3
Matanzas Deputies, Delegates Meet With Population *[Havana TV]* 3
Armed Forces Note Announces 30 April Military Exercise *[Havana Radio]* 3
Meeting Held on Agriculture Rain Damages *[Havana Radio]* 3
FAO Gives Emergency Donation for Herbicides, Pesticides *[Havana Radio]* 3
Communist Party Member Meets Chinese NPC Vice Chairman *[Havana Radio]* 3

Haiti

Cedras Writes OAS Secretary, Denies Hampering Negotiations *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Deputies Start Discussions on Request for Aristide Indictment *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Attempts To Have Unionists Released Said 'Failed;' 1 in 'Serious' Condition *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Union Leaders Released *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Justice, Peace Commission Denounces Artibonite 'Repressions' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

'Death Commando Unit' Continues Siege on Supreme Court 6
'Great Movement' Observed *[San Jose Radio]* 6
Airports Closed to Commercial Traffic *[San Jose Radio]* 6
Two Justices Released 29 Apr Leaving *[San Jose Radio]* 6
Justices Said in Security Ministry Building *[San Jose Radio]* 6
Justices Released; Kidnappers Under Arrest *[San Jose Radio]* 7
Security Minister Official on Release *[San Jose Radio]* 7
Fishman, Lacle's Remarks Cited *[AFP]* 7
Lacle, Fishman's Additional Remarks Noted *[San Jose Radio]* 8

Nicaragua

Chamorro To Hold Talks With Political, Labor, Business Sectors *[Managua Radio]* 8
OAS Secretary General Recognizes Efforts To Beef Up Human Rights Protection *[Managua TV]* 8
Protocol Signed To Host 23d OAS Assembly *[Managua Radio]* 9

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Kelpers Send Letter Saying No to Negotiations *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 29 Apr]* 10
Eduardo Menem Reelected Senate President *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 29 Apr]* 10

Bolivia

'Bureaucracy' Prevents Bolivia Joining Mercosur *[La Paz TV]* 10

Brazil

Franco Orders Central Bank To Comply With Plan *[Brasilia Radio]* 11
'Irritated' With Bank Authorities *[O GLOBO 29 Apr]* 11

Paraguay

Colorado Deputy Calls U.S. Ambassador 'Insolent' *[Asuncion TV]* 11
PATRIA Commentator Criticizes Ambassador *[PATRIA 29 Apr]* 12
Justices Disqualify Themselves From Election Case *[HOY 28 Apr]* 13
Attorney General Requests Rejection of Election Delay Request *[ULTIMA HORA 29 Apr]* 13

Peru

Subversives Detonate Bombs in Several Locations *[Lima TV]* 13
Two Antonov Aircraft Donated *[EL COMERCIO 8 Apr]* 14

Mercosur Holds Meeting on Macroeconomic Policies Disagreement

PY2304134093 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 22 Apr 93 p 16

[Text] Discussing the disagreement in the macroeconomic policies of the four Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries, Argentine Mercosur Coordinator Jesus Sabra said: "There are imbalances that jeopardize the integration of the Mercosur countries." He mentioned this within the framework of the ninth Mercosur group meeting that is being held at the BCP [Paraguayan Central Bank] in Asuncion.

Sabra said: "All imbalances are dangerous. Integration will be jeopardized if the Mercosur countries do not grow harmoniously. It is the responsibility of all the Mercosur governments to ensure that we grow in a balanced manner."

Ruben Fadlala, the Industry and Commerce vice minister, emphasized that the macroeconomic policies implemented by the Mercosur countries are not being harmonized and that this is creating problems for the Mercosur development.

Fadlala indicated: "Following an assessment, we believe there might be a number of problems. Economic agents are concerned because tariffs, especially in the River Plate countries—Uruguay and Argentina—continue to drop."

Fadlala added that macroeconomic policies involve government fiscal budgets; devaluations or macrodevaluations; production incentives, including fiscal incentives or subsidies; and all types of export incentives, which some countries implement and others do not. All this makes a harmonization very difficult.

Mercosur Variables

According to the data supplied at the Ninth Mercosur Group Meeting, Paraguay has the largest unemployment rate among the four Mercosur member countries.

Paraguay's unemployment rate is 14.4 percent, significantly higher than the 8.9 percent in Argentina, 8.4 percent in Uruguay, and 5.86 percent in Brazil.

Export income is also significant as Paraguay is way below the export income earned by the other Mercosur countries.

Paraguay has just earned $655.5 million in exports, while Brazil earned $35 billion, Argentina earned $10.6 billion, and Uruguay earned $1.65 billion.

Regarding inflation, Paraguay and Argentina stand at 18 percent, Uruguay stands at 59.3 percent, while Brazil has a staggering 1,109.43 percent.

Economy Ministers

Ruben Fadlala reported that the Mercosur economy ministers and central bank presidents will tomorrow discuss the disagreement in macroeconomic policies and trade existing among the Mercosur countries. He added that they will also compare each country's economic policy with the future of Mercosur.

Ad Hoc Commission Created

PY2704194793 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Apr 93 p 17

[Text] Increasing economic differences and imbalances among the countries that make up the Common Market of the South, Mercosur, have prompted a reaction by the Argentine, Brazilian, Paraguayan, and Uruguayan Governments, whose economic ministers and central bank presidents met in Asuncion, Paraguay, on 23 April and decided to carry out immediate actions to overcome these differences. To this end they created an ad hoc comission of deputy ministers, which will contribute to the work being done by the other commissions to expedite solutions to the various problems.

The ministers also issued instructions, and promised to have their respective governments implement measures aimed at reducing the problems that the current transition toward Mercosur seems to be encountering. Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Brazilian Industry and Commerce Minister Jose Eduardo Andrade Vieira spent but a few hours in Asuncion. Uruguay was represented by its Finance Minister Ignacio de Posadas, and Paraguay by Finance Minister Jose Diaz Perez and Industry and Commerce Minister Ubaldo Scavone.

After a meeting held behind closed doors at the Guarani Hotel, the ministers signed the following document:

Economic Policies Related to Mercosur

The four delegations addressed the measures implemented within the framework of their countries' economic policies, and the effects of these policies on the implementation of Mercosur.

The Argentine delegation stated that their country continues to implement a policy designed to balance the budget, that this policy is being applied more strictly this year, and that an atmosphere of stability is taking root.

The Argentine delgation emphasized that savings which are to be used for investments, especially in the field of technology, are growing.

It also stressed that the adjustment of the tax systems must continue, in seeking to make all four countries more alike in this regard.

The Brazilian delegation spoke about the efforts that the current administration is making to improve financial management, increase the participation of private businessmen, and foster economic recovery. Brazil's trade

surplus has been reduced, and its demand for goods from other Mercosur countries has been increased.

Uruguay outlined the main principles of its economic policy and the extent of its commercial opening. It also explained the efforts it is making to reduce public expenses and the trade deficit.

Paraguay's representatives explained that last year Paraguay had some difficulties because of floods and the low price of cotton. This year, however, prospects are much better because of increased production and higher international prices. A financial reform is being studied.

Macroeconomy and Trade

The economy ministers agreed to instruct the appropriate Mercosur subgrups to continue working toward the establishment of a basic common customs rate, to pinpoint the areas in which there are differences in commercial flows, and to submit concrete recommendations.

These recommendations will be submitted for the consideration of an ad hoc commission of deputy economy ministers or equivalent officials. This commission will meet in June of this year. The conclusions of this commission will be studied by the economy ministers, who will meet prior to the next gathering of the Mercosur Board that will take place on 1 July in Asuncion.

The ministers agreed to expedite negotiations aimed at reconciling the rules on investment guarantees, intellectual property rights, unfair commercial practices, and defense of competition and consumers in all four countries.

It has been established that for the purpose of this reconciliation the most demanding national rule, and the one that comes closest to international standards, should be taken as the point of reference.

The ministers instructed the appropriate subgroups to present a report on the difficulties that the implementation of these standards may encounter within the framework of the Mercosur. This report should be ready for the next meeting of the economy vice ministers or equivalent officials, so that they can make it available to the economy ministers to discuss at their next meeting.

On the subject of reconciliation of taxes and subsidies, it has been agreed to instruct Technical Subgrup No. 10 to expedite through the appropriate commissions the tasks dealing with indirect taxes, and especially the handling of problems that crop up along the borders. Instructions were also issued to report to the meetings of economy ministers the difficulties that this reconciliation process may encounter.

Cuba

Castro Writes Camaguey Tile Factory Workers

FL2904215693 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The workers and retired personnel of the Camaguey durable tile factory [fabrica de tejas infinitas], the only one of its kind in the country, joyfully received the letter from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in response to a letter they sent him some time earlier.

The document expresses the great satisfaction the commander in chief felt when they told him of their readiness to make whatever efforts necessary to meet assigned production goals in response to the serious damages caused by the storm that struck the nation in March.

Fidel's letter adds: The solution to the serious damage caused by the winds to the roofs of thousands of homes and installations of all kinds, with the resulting negative affects on the economy, depends to a great extent on your work. Lastly, Castro congratulates them for their disposition in this matter and urges them to continue setting an example for all the nation's workers.

Matanzas Deputies, Delegates Meet With Population

FL3004005993 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Matanzas Municipality deputies and people's government delegates have met with the population. The exchange began with the participation of the five deputies and 15 delegates in the special morning event [matutino] held at the Martyrs of the Goicuria (?Garrison) School. Today is that school's 37th anniversary.

They then met with representatives of the Communist Party of Cuba and of the mass organizations in the province and spoke with the residents of the Matanzas, Pueblo Nuevo, and Ceiba Mocha areas and with the people's councils of other areas. Among the topics discussed by the population were: the functioning of the people's councils themselves, the administrations, and topics having to do with the health, food, and educational programs.

Lastly, [words indistinct] workers of the contingent [words indistinct] Martyrs of the Goicuria Expedition, who are working hard to meet their commitments to facilitate the area's (?being declared) ready for defense in the second phase.

Armed Forces Note Announces 30 April Military Exercise

FL2904165093 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] We have a note from the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [Minfar] that reads that an exercise will be held on 30 April using antiaircraft and aviation defense methods in the western part of the country to train forces and utilize equipment of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force and different command and leadership groups. The Minfar note adds that for this reason there will be troop movements and combat plane and helicopter overflights over Havana City.

Meeting Held on Agriculture Rain Damages

FL2904125893 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The basic damages to agriculture in Baracoa by abundant rain reported in the extreme eastern part of the island were evaluated in a meeting attended by Julian Rizo, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Cuba.

According to reports, 3,000 coffee plants and 100,000 shoots were affected by the rain at the mininurseries, while more than 110,000 cacao pods were lost as a result of the 351 mm of water accumulated in 24 hours.

Damages were also reported to the coconut palms and tubers because of damages in more than 10,000 square meters of organoponic [organoponicos] areas of Baracoa.

FAO Gives Emergency Donation for Herbicides, Pesticides

FL3004013693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Today, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] gave an emergency donation to Cuba valued at $260,000. The donation has been assigned for the purchase of herbicides and pesticides for the crops that were affected in March. The donation was given to Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, in Havana.

Communist Party Member Meets Chinese NPC Vice Chairman

FL2904190993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Today in Beijing, Chen Muhua, vice chairman of China's National People's Congress [NPC], met Cuban leader Melba Hernandez in a meeting described as a friendly conversation between two old guerrillas. During the meeting, Chen Muhua expressed to Melba his complete confidence in Cuba's triumph and sent greetings to Cuba's top leaders.

Melba Hernandez, a member of the Communist Party of Cuba and deputy to the National Assembly of the People's Government, has been in Beijing for four days. She will leave there for Vietnam on an official visit to this neighboring Asian country.

The heroine of the Moncada met with Li Shuzheng, head of the Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party [CPC], with (Li Bieyai),

secretary of this department, and with CPC members and other figures during her visit to China.

Haiti

Cedras Writes OAS Secretary, Denies Hampering Negotiations

FL2904203293 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The commander in chief of the Haitian Army, General Raoul Cedras, sent a card to OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares. In the card, the general has denied information in the press reporting that he has hampered negotiations. Gen. Cedras says that, on the contrary, he is determined to help the OAS find a solution to the crisis that is shaking the country.

Baena Soares says he received the card and was pleased to read its contents. He hopes that what is written in it will not be long in becoming reality so the negotiation process can progress quickly, so the democratic institutions can be restored as soon as possible in Haiti.

The card that the OAS received represents the second protest by the Haitian military within two days against the press they say is accusing them of drug trafficking and of having hampered the negotiations for a solution to be found to the conflict following the overthrow of President Aristide.

In his card to the OAS secretary general, Gen. Cedras says he is amazed to hear statements by international press agencies accusing Army members of creating hindrances. In fact, the Army commander in chief was expecting an interpretation completely different from this position so he could take action within the scope of the Constitution and with respect for all parties to facilitate a just and quick solution to the political crisis. The general adds that the institution he leads is quite aware of the fact that the country's situation is worsening day by day and says he is willing to discuss it honestly with Baena Soares' mission and special envoy Dante Caputo.

Deputies Start Discussions on Request for Aristide Indictment

FL2904214993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] In the Haitian Chamber of Deputies, discussions have started regarding the request by Attorney Mireille Durocher Bertin for the indictment of ousted President Aristide. Ansy Rose Resignac filed a report:

[Begin Resiganc recording] The deputies are dispersed into small opinion groups over the request by Attorney Mireille Durocher Bertin, but the Constitution requires two-thirds of the votes in the Lower Chamber, or 54 deputies, for this indictment.

PANPRA [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] Deputy Yves Pericles Boge considers this initiative upside down, since the sentence that would result from such an action, the dismissal of the president, has already been inflicted on Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. For this trial to be possible, the socialist deputy says it would first be necessary to reestablish the ousted president. Although Yves Pericles Boge does not support Bertin's request, he thinks that during Aristide's seven months there were several violations of the Constitution. At a time when resolving the crisis involves the question of amnesty, the PANPRA deputy worries about the consequences of such an action when most of the country's institutions are guilty of violating the Constitution.

The opinion of the socialist legislator is in partial agreement with Mobilization for National Development [MDN] Deputy Deus Jean-Francois. How to begin an action for the dismissal of a president who is already dismissed, is asked by the MDN deputy who does not encourage this initiative, which is considered a controversial method that tends to reject one or another party to solve the crisis. Deus Jean-Francois believes, however, that this approach would the administration of Aristide's government to be questioned regarding the Constitution to determine whether he is entitled to resume power. [sentence as heard]

Protesting the fact that the Constitution has been violated by the one who was in charge of enforcing its respect, Deus Jean-Francois is willing to participate if the procedure is initiated in parliament.

This is also the position of another deputy of the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion. Gabriel Sanon fully supports the request by Bertin, which he says deserves to be considered by the deputies. No one is above the law, he says. He is ready to support the indictment of any person who will be liable before the High Court of Justice.

The deputies from the opposition scoff at Bertin's initiative. It is unfortunate that the press pays attention to a matter that should not even be considered, stated a deputy from the lavalas movement, Patrick Norseus. To him, the initiative is a diversion maneuver aimed at diverting the attention of honest people. Patrick Norseus agrees with his FNCD colleague Joseph Fignole Jean-Louis in noticing a certain contradiction by the authors of the coup d'etat and their supporters: They demand Aristide's trial while they themselves should be tried for the numerous crimes committed since the overthrow of the constitutional president. [end recording]

Attempts To Have Unionists Released Said 'Failed;' 1 in 'Serious' Condition

FL2904173493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Military authorities are in a new dilemma because of the health of Cajuste Lexius which is reportedly so disturbing that he was taken to the military hospital. The steps taken by a labor union internal

committee to obtain the release of their members arrested on 23 April have been in vain. Attempts made on 28 April to the police authorities in Port-au- Prince failed. Guilloto Francois filed a report.

[Begin Francois recording in Creole] On 28 April, the labor union internal delegation did not meet with the chief of Port-au- Prince Police to discuss the arrest of the three labor union members of the General Organization of Workers, CGT. The labor union member is allegedly in a serious condition. According to the labor union internal organization, which includes more than five labor union organizations, such as FOS [Federation of Labor Union Workers]; CTH [Confederation of Haitian Workers]; CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers]; and OGITH [General and Independent Organization of Haitian Workers], the antigang authorities' reason was that they did not come to the appointment. The labor union internal organization says that it was very surprised to hear that because the administrative ministry, the Social Affairs Ministry, had already made an appointment with the chief of Port-au-Prince Police regarding the 28 April meeting.

The international mission in Haiti had already contacted the labor union internal organization concerning the case and took steps to the military authorities to ensure that the three labor union members appear before judges. It appears, however, according to the labor union members, the three prisoners are in such serious condition that it is very difficult for them to go to court right now. [passage omitted]

Right now, the three labor union members have allegedly been transferred from the National Penitentiary so that they can receive medical care. One of them, Cajuste Lexius, who is in serious condition, is allegedly in the military hospital. [end recording]

Union Leaders Released

FL2904210893 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] We have just learned of the release of the three labor union leaders arrested on 23 April. They were released at 1600 GMT, according to statements by their lawyers. Two of the members, Phabonor Saint-Vil and Sauveur Aurelus, were released after appearing this morning at the public prosecutor's office of the Port-au-Prince civil court.

Cajuste Lexius, victim of physical abuse, is allegedly still at the hospital, according to the lawyers.

Phabonor Saint-Vil and Sauveur Aurelus are being received at this moment by the Commission of Justice and Peace.

Justice, Peace Commission Denounces Artibonite 'Repressions'

FL2904205393 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The Justice and Peace Commission in Gonaives has denounced the repressions being committed in the Artibonite region. The commission has drawn up a list of infractions committed by a corporal named Elius, who is nicknamed 21 Nations. According to the Justice and Peace Commission, this corporal prevented Catholic believers in La Chapelle from attending mass in the mornings. He arrested 17 believers and chased Father Robert Ternier who was celebrating mass on 17 April. The believers were, however, released shortly thereafter. The Justice and Peace Commission of the Gonaives diocese invites the international civilian mission to look into the problem of this corporal named Elius.

The Papaye Peasants Movement, MPP, celebrating the 20th anniversary of its formation, held a news conference on 28 April to denounce repressions being committed against peasants in the Plateau Central. The national directorate of the MPP has reaffirmed its willingness to struggle on behalf of the peasants, to defend them by all means, and to help them develop the area in which they are living.

Some peasants from Hinche presented testimony on the repression, and Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, MPP leader and member of the pro-Aristide Presidential Committee, expressed a desire for the political crisis to be resolved so the peasants who are in hiding can return home.

Costa Rica

'Death Commando Unit' Continues Siege on Supreme Court

'Great Movement' Observed

PA2904193093 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1851 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Our reporters, who are located throughout the city where developments following the 26 April Supreme Court occupation and the kidnapping of 20 magistrates and other Court officials are taking place, have observed great movement. It appears the government has made a decision. This decision is not yet known.

Great movement is observed, however, at the Juan Santamaria International Airport, where we have already dispatched one of our reporters, who will shortly be reporting to us on events there.

Meanwhile, hospitals have declared a red alert and many people have been released from some hospitals in our country, such as the Mexico Hospital and the Calderon Guardia Hospital. Only emergencies are being treated at this time. These are the reports we have received from Mexico and Calderon Guardia Hospitals. Only emergencies are being treated now.

There is a large operation under way, but the government's decision is not yet known. It is not known what will happen or if an understanding with the kidnappers—who have been holding Supreme Court magistrates hostage since 26 April—has been reached.

We can report, Reloj listeners, that movement has been observed. We will keep listeners posted on the possible outcome of this kidnapping, which began at 1350 on 26 April. [passage omitted]

Airports Closed to Commercial Traffic

PA2904213993 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2102 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report by Bernie Vasquez]

[Text] The Tobias Bolano International Airport in Pavas and San Jose's Juan Santamaria International Airport have reportedly been closed, which means the airports have been closed to commercial air traffic as of 1500. This is an amazing situation. The fact that an MI-17 helicopter has flown over the judicial building indicates that strong pressure is being placed on both kidnappers and the kidnaped.

This is happening while the Government Council is holding an emergency meeting, which means negotiations have not been completed. The new developments have created additional uncertainty.

The Tobias Bolano and the Juan Santamaria Airports have been closed. Our journalists at those airports will be providing us with more details.

Two Justices Released 29 Apr Leaving

PA2904221293 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2131 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report by Cecilia Zuniga from the Security Ministry Building in San Jose—live]

[Text] At this moment the vehicles carrying the justices are arriving. The relatives of some justices are also arriving. We are watching Justice Jorge Castro Bolano and Justice Eduardo Sancho. Neither has made a statement. We are seeing eight justices. Here comes another. The justices who were released today are leaving. None want to speak. All of them look tired [words indistinct]. Also arriving here are the relatives of the justices and, just like the justices, none of them has wanted to make a statement. We are seeing them descending together with their relatives. We are seeing how the justice [not futher identified] is. Each of the justices is in a car accompanied by relatives.

The justices [words indistinct] immediately taken over by the Civil Guard, who are stationed outside the ministry, and so he [not futher identified] could not make a statement. As I reported, the entry of other vehicles has been limited. The first group of justices who have been released has just completed its entry. [as heard]

Justices Said in Security Ministry Building

PA2904222193 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2143 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report by Cecilian Zuniga from the Costa Rican Public Security Ministry—live]

[Text] There is a great deal of rushing about here but one person has told us that the justices are already in the Public Security Ministry building. That leads us to believe that while some of them were entering the building by one door, others were entering the building using another main entrance. We cannot say this is official information because we have not received official information from the authorities, but we have been told that all the justices are here.

First we saw women and other justices enter the building and it is possible that the others entered through the other main door. It does not appear that they used side doors to enter the building.

Right now relatives of the justices are entering the building through side doors. Right now one of the justices is leaving with a relative. We do not know who that justice is. He is leaving with his wife and probably one of this children, a four or five-year-old child. They are being escorted by a patrol car.

It is possible that other justices will be leaving soon. We do not know where they are being taken. Perhaps they are being taken to a hospital or to their homes. They do not appear to have physical problems, but they do seem tired, perhaps because of the circumstances they have endured since 26 April when they were kidnapped by a death commando group made up of three Costa Ricans and an unidentified person. Two have been identified as Guillermo and Gilberto Fallas Helizondo.

Everything is quiet right now. We have seen no other justice leave and there is no car ready to leave. The civil guards protecting the area are more relaxed now. We will be providing further details.

Justices Released; Kidnappers Under Arrest

PA2904222893 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2207 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Statement by President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier at the Presidential Palace in San Jose—recorded]

[Text] I am not going to answer any questions today. Minister Fishman and the Crisis Committee will do that. I just want to make an important announcement: All the justices have been released. All of them are fine, thank God. I also want to announce that all the kidnappers are under arrest right now.

Security Minister Official on Release

PA2904231493 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2215 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Interview with Jose Maria Tijerino, Government and Public Security Ministry official, by unidentified reporter at the Government and Public Security Ministry in San Jose—live]

[Text] [Tijerino] This is the precedent that the Costa Rican people had been waiting for to end the disorder. We have already drafted charges of kidnapping with intent to commit extortion.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]
[Tijerino] Five persons.

[Reporter] All of them Costa Rican?
[Tijerino] All of them are Costa Rican.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]
[Tijerino] Yes, of course.

[Reporter] Their names?
[Tijerino] I do not remember them.

[Reporter] Was a ransom paid?
[Tijerino] Yes, but all of it was recovered.

[Reporter] How much was paid?
[Tijerino] I do not know.

[Reporter] How was it recovered? Why has this not been explained?

[Tijerino] All of them were arrested. The president has confirmed that.

[Reporter] Why were there negotiations at the beginning? Was it a strategy?
[Tijerino] It was a strategy.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Reporter] Did the Colombian group help you make this decision? Did they encourage you to make this decision? [words indistinct]
[Tijerino] I would prefer that either the president or the head of the Crisis Committee comment on that. I can say that the Public Security Ministry has formally prepared charges of kidnapping with the intent to commit extortion and that now that these people have been captured, we are going to file charges in court.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]?
[Tijerino] The five of them are Costa Ricans.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]
[Tijerino] I prefer that the Crisis Committee comment on this.

Fishman, Lacle's Remarks Cited

PA3004024393 Paris AFP in Spanish 0155 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] San Jose, 29 Apr (AFP)—Public Security Minister Luis Fishman announced on 29 April that the capture of the self-styled Death Commando group that held 23 judicial officials, including 19 Costa Rican justices, for three days was carefully planned so the crime would not go unpunished.

Had the operation to capture the five kidnappers at Costa Rica's airport failed, their arrest would have been carried out by the Government of Guatemala or Panama, the two probable destinations of the group, the official reported.

The seizure of the judicial branch's main building and the kidnapping of the Costa Rican Supreme Court justices, a situation that kept the country tense since 26 April, concluded on the afternoon of 29 April with the release of all the hostages and the arrest of the entire commando group.

Presidency Minister Rolando Lacle said: "The justices are free and at home with their relatives, and those who brought shame to the country are under arrest but alive and enjoying their human rights." The minister said that Colombian and U.S. experts provided advice in this case.

Fishman said that from the very beginning the government handled the crisis on three premises: to guarantee the lives of the justices and other judicial authorities, not to pay one cent in ransom, and to make sure that this action would not go unpunished.

He said that the hostages' relatives collected $150,000—the amount finally agreed on with the command unit, which had at first demanded a $20 million ransom.

The security minister confirmed that the commando unit was comprised of two brothers, Guillermo and Gilberto Fallas, their uncle and brother-in-law, and a fifth person whose identity has not yet been determined.

The Fallas brothers had been linked to various Costa Rican security organizations and have extensive military training.

Fishman admitted the urgency of revising the country's security system and introducing necessary changes but gave no details.

Costa Rica, a country of pacifist inclinations that does not maintain an army, has been shocked by three kidnappings in the past seven months: the kidnapping of Public Security Minister Luis Fishman by a Honduran terrorist, of Nicaraguan Embassy personnel, and of the Supreme Court of Justice magistrates.

Lacle, Fishman's Additional Remarks Noted

PA3004034093 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Report by unidentified reporter—live or recorded]

[Text] Costa Rica can feel calm because we saved the lives of everyone—hostages, kidnappers, and security officers, Presidency Minister Rolando Lacle reported on 29 April after 18 magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice had been freed.

The official said the kidnappers who brought this shameful episode upon the country are under arrest in a special country called Costa Rica, where their lives are being respected. Those who should be home with their families are home, and those who should be in prison are in prison, Lacle added.

On 26 April an armed group called the Death Commando Unit stormed the sessions room of the Supreme Court of Justice and took 19 magistrates and at least three judicial branch officials hostage.

Luis Fishman, government and public security minister, explained that the crisis was tackled under three premises: to safeguard human lives, to not yield to extortion, and to ensure the magistrates' kidnapping would not go unpunished.

Fishman said that Costa Rica implemented its strategy under those premises with the help of Colombian counterterrorism experts and U.S. advisers. Fishman revealed that Minister Lacle personally supervised the operation to capture the kidnappers and authorized it only after having confirmed the feasibility of capturing them without major risks.

Nicaragua

Chamorro To Hold Talks With Political, Labor, Business Sectors

PA2904193193 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1715 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Communique by the Presidency Press and Information Directorate issued in Managua on 29 April]

[Text] The Presidency Press and Information Directorate announces that Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, within the spirit of reconciliation that should exist among Nicaraguans and to contribute to understanding among the nation's sectors, has decided to hold a round of dialogue with the country's main political, labor, and business sectors from 3 to 6 May. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, 3 May
1000: National Opposition Union
1500: Permanent Workers Congress

Tuesday, 4 May
1000: National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen
1500: Center Bloc

Wednesday, 5 May
1000: National Workers Front
1500: Higher Council of Private Enterprise

Thursday, 6 May
1000: Sandinist National Liberation Front
1500: Government Cabinet

This round of dialogue will be held at the Presidential House. Invitations have been sent to the representatives of these organizations. The sincere contribution of the participants, seeking points of convergence and preventing differences, will guarantee the success of this patriotic task.

[Issued] Managua, 29 April 1993

OAS Secretary General Recognizes Efforts To Beef Up Human Rights Protection

PA2904170793 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares confirmed and recognized the Nicaraguan Government's efforts to beef up human rights protection systems and guarantees for Nicaraguan citizens. He received a report of the work accomplished up to now by the Tripartite Commission in charge of reviewing and making recommendations to end post-war violence.

The Tripartite Commission, which was created in October 1992, has completed the investigation of 120 cases of violence against both former Nicaraguan Resistance members and against the Army and other sectors of society affected by the war.

The report on the commission's work up to now was publicly presented on 27 April to the OAS secretary general. The people who make up part of the commission were also present.

President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro reaffirmed her support for and confidence in the Tripartite Commission's work.

[Begin Chamorro recording] We need to fight and eradicate impunity. The right to life and other rights to do with human dignity, outlined in the universal declaration on human rights and other international agreements, is a basic condition to establish a legal state, and for Nicaragua's social and economic reconstruction.

I wish to take this opportunity to call on the media and on the various political and social organizations to be more factual in your assertions. [end recording]

The deputy foreign minister, who represented the government in the commission, reported on the work accomplished by the three tripartite subcommissions that operate in areas affected by the war. They investigated 120 cases of violence that require complete clarification.

[Begin Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais recording] Up to this date, the tripartite subcommissions have investigated 56 controversial cases out of the 120 cases, plus the three added cases of public notoriety. This leaves eight cases pending out of the first 61 cases [as heard].

The commission has reviewed and analyzed 47 of those cases, in what can be termed as a review to reach a preliminary consensus, which will again be reviewed until a definite consensus is reached that takes into consideration all sides. [end recording]

The commission also received representatives from various nongovernment human rights organizations to exchange views as to the origin of this violence and thus make recommendations to end it. The commission also received individual citizens who had been hurt, among whom was Elsa de Bermudez [widow of slain contra Commander Enrique Bermudez] and Raymond Genie [founding member of the Nicaraguan Civic Movement and father of Jean Paul Genie Lacayo, killed by Army General Humberto Ortega's motorcade guards].

The government, accepting the commission's first recommendations, created a special commission headed by the Government Ministry to implement the recommendations, starting with opening legal cases against the perpetrators listed by the commission and having them arrested. The location and transfer of the witnesses to appear in court was also reported. Seventeen civilians were listed as masterminds or perpetrators as were six Army soldiers and three policemen.

[Begin Deputy Government Minister Frank Cesar recording] We can say that 100 percent of the alleged perpetrators have had cases opened against them; 12 have been arrested and 14 are at large but are listed in National Police bulletins. This means that the National Police have arrested 46 percent of the alleged perpetrators.

It should be noted that of those who are at large, most have joined armed gangs that operate in the northern area. This makes it difficult to locate and arrest them. [end recording]

The OAS secretary general recognized the government's efforts to safeguard human rights.

[Begin Baena Soares recording] It is very encouraging to see the seriousness with which all members of the tripartite commission do their work, work that has as a final goal Nicaragua's peace and reconciliation. As the president has already mentioned, on 17 February the commission presented a preliminary report. We have received the report on the government's measures following the commission's recommendations. We all know that the commission's work is not easy. We all value its work very highly. [end recording]

The Nicaraguan Government has requested an extension of the International Commission of Support and Verification mandate, to allow it to cover all sectors affected by post-war situations.

Protocol Signed To Host 23d OAS Assembly

PA2904150793 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] As part of the special visit by OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares, on the morning of 27 April he went to the Foreign Ministry and signed the protocol of agreement that officially establishes that Nicaragua will host the 23d OAS assembly.

At 1400 Baena Soares met with President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and at 1700 he will meet with the Tripartite Commission.

Argentina

Kelpers Send Letter Saying No to Negotiations

PY2904231693 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Apr 93 p 11

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Only two weeks after Malvinas Councillor William R. Luxton sent Foreign Minister Guido di Tella a letter stating that the islanders would not "compromise or negotiate sovereignty" in the region, another group of legislators from the island have expressed their position in writing to the Argentine government.

The HERALD received a fax with a copy of a letter sent to di Tella by Malvinas legislative councillors including H.T. Rowlands, G. Robson, G.P. Short, T.J. Peck, K.S. Kilmartin and Mrs. N. Edwards. The councillors state that "if the claim to sovereignty could be dropped (by Argentina) we could indeed see our way forward as neighbours but on a basis of mutual respect. We should add that until such a time as this, we have no desire for physical communication links and see no need to establish them."

The "kelper" legislators told di Tella that they "note your comments about our way of life and commitment that what has happened will never happen again. You will understand we feel these assurances offer little comfort while your country's claim to our home and our homeland remains outstanding and while your President (Carlos Menem) tells the world that Argentina will gain sovereignty over the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands by the year 2000.

"It is Argentina's continuing territorial claim which contaminates what should be a normal and natural relationship between neighbours and which leads us to view contacts with your country with misgivings.

"However, this does not mean that we wish to avoid talks at the official level," continued the island officials.

Eduardo Menem Reelected Senate President

PY2904231993 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Apr 93 p 1

[Excerpt] (NA)—Justicialist Senator Menem was re-elected by acclamation yesterday evening to his fifth consecutive term as the Upper House's provisional president as Congress laid the groundwork for the May 1 opening of ordinary sessions.

Joining the brother of President Carlos Menem in winning another term was the Senate's vice-president, Oraldo Britos (Justicialist-San Luis).

New faces among the chamber's leadership will include First Vice-President Conrado Storani (Radical-Cordoba) and Second Vice- President Juan Carlos Oyarzun (Tierra del Fuego Popular Movement), replacing Luis Leon (Radical) and Juan Aguirre Lanari (Liberal-Corrientes), respectively. The first post generally goes to a member of the opposition party with the largest representation in the Senate, while the latter is rotated among the provincial parties. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

'Bureaucracy' Prevents Bolivia Joining Mercosur

PY2904194793 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Mercosur [Common Market of the South] bureaucracy is preventing Bolivia from joining this important integration mechanism. Vice President Luis Ossio Sanjines has said Bolivia should not remain idle in light of this situation.

The Mercosur executive organization has rejected Bolivia's membership of this subregional integration mechanism. The Treaty of Asuncion is the legal instrument which regulates the members of Mercosur and prevents its members from belonging to more than one regional organization. It must be recalled that Bolivia is already a member of the Andean Pact. Many government officials have said that Bolivia should not give up trying to join the Mercosur.

[Begin Ossio Sanjines recording] We must firmly protest this attitude of Mercosur because they want us to leave the Andean Pact to join Mercosur. I think this is unfair. Bolivian congressmen have said this publicly in Congress and some presidents, like Argentine President Carlos Menem, have expressed support for our position. However, Mercosur bureaucracy is denying us a right. I think that Bolivia must insist on its position. We are a central country, with many contacts, and if we want Latin American or South American integration we must not close our doors or create sealed compartments. The formal, bureaucratic rejection by Mercosur will be countered by actions of presidents like Menem and Itamar Franco who will support us so that we may correct this situation created by thoughtless and [word indistinct] bureaucracy. [end recording]

As for Bolivian foreign affairs, the vice president said that the Bolivian maritime claim is included in the OAS agenda.

[Begin Ossio Sanjines recording] The maritime claim must always be included in international agendas because it is our policy. Even though the final solution will come from bilateral or (?trilateral) negotiations, the pressure to attain this solution and the improvement of our negotiating capability will be made through multilateral organizations. [end recording]

Brazil

Franco Orders Central Bank To Comply With Plan

PY2904005893 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco has demanded that the Central Bank closely comply with the plan to reduce interest rates.

Franco was at home last night when he learned that the Central Bank might not be complying with interest reduction targets. He immediately asked Acting Finance Minister (Evando Borges) for an explanation and ordered the Central Bank to comply with the provisions of the action plan announced last Saturday.

President Franco personally announced this to Press Secretary Francisco Baker at around midnight, over the phone.

Baker denied a report published today in a Brasilia newspaper which states that the IMF was displeased with the government action plan. Baker reported that the IMF spokesman for Latin America has said that the institution makes no comments on this type of matter, and considers premature any evaluation of the plan announced by President Franco.

Baker added that early today in Washington, Finance Minister Eliseu Resende talked with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, who expressed support for the action plan of President Itamar Franco.

'Irritated' With Bank Authorities

PY2904235993 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Apr 93 p 3

[Report by Luis Erlanger and Eliane Cantanhede]

[Text] During a harsh telephone call to interim Finance Minister Wando Borges early on the morning of 28 April, President Itamar Franco demanded that the Central Bank must definitively comply with his ultimatum to bring down interest rates. Franco became irritated when he learned that Francisco Amadeu, monetary policy director of the Central Bank, said in an interview that interest rates could only be reduced in the medium term. Franco made a series of phone calls to economic authorities, including Finance Minister Eliseu Resende, who is currently in Washington.

"Either the Central Bank follows the government's tenets or matters will become complicated. I am mercurial. I go from 0 to 100 degrees," the president warned.

Amadeus' remarks increased Franco's annoyance with Central Bank President Paulo Cesar Ximenes, who coordinated the proposal for the independence of the Central Bank that was presented by the International Academy of Rights and Economy on 26 April during a seminar that was held in Planalto Palace with Franco in attendance. On 26 April, criticizing Ximenes' reaction, the president said:

"The address" favoring the Central Bank's independence "by Economist Paulo Ravelo de Castro was brilliant."

In addition the specific question of interest rates, Franco also questioned the way the bank functions and concludes it is no longer an instrument of the government, that it has become an instrument of the financial market.

The Central Bank meets with 20 dealers and then decides everything on its own. That is not the way.

During a chat with O GLOBO reporters on 28 April at Planalto Palace, the president indicated that he is satisfied with the reaction to the economic plan announced on 24 April. He referred to his government as a transitional one, highlighting the fact that he really assumed the presidency 4 months ago, on 29 December. He stated that some of the discussion on changes in the financial system lasted for six hours, most of them based on three phrases, which, due to his willpower, determined a deadline for a reduction of interest rates. Franco admitted that it was only at 0300 that he back pedalled on that deadline, which would have unleashed the likelihood of another package after that date. [sentence as published]

The president announced that the government will participate in a review of the Constitution through the creation of a special commission to submit proposals for a complete reform in all sectors.

Paraguay

Colorado Deputy Calls U.S. Ambassador 'Insolent'

PY2904213393 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Colorado Deputy Sandino Gil Oporto, one of the signatories to the petition filed before the Supreme Court to postpone the 9 May elections, addressed the Chamber of Deputies during this morning's session.

Gil Oporto justified the petition and harshly criticized the Colorado Party presidential candidate. His remarks elicited support from his colleagues. He said:

"In keeping with the principle that sovereignty rests with the people, we contend that the people's will must be the only source of any legitimate authority. Yet, our position has made us the target of attacks by several people, including that of the Colorado Party candidate, Mr. Wasmosy, who—believe it or not—described the signatories to the petition as a small group. He said that as soon as it is confirmed that such an attempt has been made he would ask the Colorado Executive Board to

hand down stiff, firm sanctions against us. But who is this man to say that? How remarkable!

"Wasmosy also charged us with trying to extend our tenure in Congress. Yet, Wasmosy is not known for being a lofty man. On the contrary, he has a completely adverse reputation. I believe he has no authority to state his opposition in this gross, disrespectful way. [applause] Wasmosy would have done better by remaining silent at this time instead of making such a far-fetched remark.

"Mr. [National Encounter presidential candidate Guillermo] Caballero Vargas also criticized the petition. This is logical because he knows that the reason his candidacy has some viability at this time is simply because of the crisis the Colorado Party is experiencing. Thus, he must favor holding the 9 May election come what may because, otherwise, he would not have the remotest chance of winning the presidency. These guys, these people, are the candidates for whom we will have to cast our votes. What a tragic destiny we are indeed confronting at this time when we believe that [applause] the process must be crystal clear and when we want unimpeachable candidates. The electoral process and the election must be unimpeachable so that we may have legitimate officials. They are aware of this. Mr. Caballero Vargas knows that he is not ranked first in the opinion polls. Someone is ahead of him, but no one is reporting that. Keeping the lid on this information is being an accomplice to not just a personal repugnant action, but to something that will affect the entire nation."

Gil Oporto also criticized remarks by President Andres Rodriguez:

"The president of the Republic said the elections will be held on 9 May come what may. Who is he to say that? I want to tell him from my seat in Congress that he cannot state his opinion [applause]; it is not incumbent upon him to comment on a legitimate petition filed before the appropriate authorities. He is not empowered to comment on this topic unless he is seeking to exert pressure on the justices of the Supreme Court. By commenting on the issue, he is conveying a message to the court."

In the final segment of his speech, Gil Oporto strongly criticized U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman. Here is part of his strong remarks:

"Had the president a little self-respect, he would have long ago returned the credentials of Ambassador Glassman, this insolent man who is trying to direct our country's overall policy. For much less than this, [former Paraguayan] President Carlos Antonio Lopez expelled another insolent North American who came here to try to usurp functions that are incumbent upon our national authorities.

"Argentine President Illia returned the credentials of Ambassador (McKeaton) for much less than what Mr. Glassman is doing. The thing is that Mr. Glassman came from Afghanistan, where he apparently acted the part of a Texas cowboy, engaging in gunfights. He is just like [former U.S. Ambassador to Argentina] Braden, who feels he has sufficient authority because he believes he is coming to a Central American banana republic, but this is a heroic, glorious country. If the president of the Republic has not told him that, I want to tell him as a representative of the Paraguayan people that he is an insolent man. [applause]"

PATRIA Commentator Criticizes Ambassador

PY2904205393 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 29 Apr 93 p 5

[Unattributed commentary entitled: "...and deliver us, Lord, from this ambassador that we must endure"]

[Text] One could hear it being said yesterday: "Glassman again." [quoted phrase published in Guarani] The people are fed up with him. He is a pain in the neck.

Yesterday we were reminded of governments that returned the credentials of U.S. ambassadors without causing an outbreak of war.

Here, over the past few years, we have had a succession of nosy ambassadors who wanted to treat us like a yankee colony, a banana republic, but this Jon Glassman has surpassed all expectations.

It was not just Colorado Party Deputy Sandino Gil Oporto who complained. He recalled that Peron put an end to a similar issue involving that famous "nosy" [quoted word published in Guarani] ambassador in Buenos Aires: Braden. With almost allegorical significance, a choice was offered: Braden or Peron, that is, independence and self-determination, or continuing under the yoke of the Yankees. The people did not hesitate before answering Peron.

There is no other ambassador from any other country who sticks in his nose as much as this one. All other ambassadors work within the framework of diplomatic rules and respect. But this is like being the owner of the world.

Yesterday, as soon as he learned of Lino Oviedo's remarks expressing his desire to continue working for the Colorado Party, announcing the victory in the 9 May elections, he took his limousine and fuming with rage went to the Palace. But we ask ourselves, what does he have to do with our internal affairs? When are they going to let Paraguayans decide for ourselves how to solve our problems. Can you imagine our Ambassador Ruben Melgarejo, or any of the others working in Washington, meeting with Clinton to help the U.S. President design the U.S. internal policy?

It is shameful. Deliver us, Lord, from this ambassador we must endure!

Justices Disqualify Themselves From Election Case

PY2804211293 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 28 Apr 93 p 2

[Excerpt] Justices Jose Alberto Correa, Jeronimo Irala Burgos, and Victor Khon Benitez yesterday disqualified themselves from hearing the request made by 28 Colorado Party congressmen for the suspension of the 9 May general election on constitutional grounds. The three justices cited enmity toward Roberto Correa Cuyer, the attorney who acts for the aforementioned congressmen, for this decision. It is said that the Colorado Party congressmen's intention when choosing Correa Cuyer to represent them was precisely to prompt the aforementioned justices to disqualify themselves.

This decision means the other justices that will be appointed to fill the vacancies left by the three justices will have to decide on the foregoing request. The reason behind the congressmen's "move" is to have the request accepted by the Supreme Court once it is duly constituted and its five justices study the petition and issue a ruling on it. [passage omitted]

Attorney General Requests Rejection of Election Delay Request

PY2904222693 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 29 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] The Attorney General's Office recommended this morning that the Supreme Court flatly reject ["in li-mine litis"] the request for unconstitutionality submitted by 22 legislators for the purpose of suspending or postponing the 9 May general elections because it is "noticeably contrary to law" and for its "obvious bad faith."

On 26 April, members of Congress submitted a request to the Supreme Court for the suspension of the elections, saying that Decrees Nos. 15465 and 15466 calling for elections were inaccurate. The request also was based on Law No. 132/93 and Resolution No. 2/93 of the Electoral Court.

Congressman Carlos Galeano Perrone joined the request the next day with the representation of lawyer Roberto Correa Cuyer, who made two [number as published] Supreme Court members disqualify themselves.

The Attorney General's Office's note signed by Luis Escobar Faella criticizes the wicked attitude of the congressman who tried "to take constitutional power away from the natural justices" with the "unnecessary" representation by Correa Cuyer. The note adds: "The representation by lawyer Correa Cuyer in a note signed by a professional lawyer and national deputy is completely irrelevant ... and it openly sought the separation of two Supreme Court justices."

The note goes on to say that, "according to the information, this action in bad faith against the Supreme Court justices also is intended for other Supreme Court members and even for members of the Attorney General's Office, which would be like making a mockery of justice and an abuse of the institutional rights guaranteed by law."

The Attorney General's Office justified that the request is contrary to law by saying that "none of the questioned provisions directly affects the petitioners, and if they invoke their position of congressmen it should be said that only Congress has the right to take action and not some of its members."

The note says that the clarity of the petition is a basic element in a presentation of this kind. The note adds: "In this case there is no mention of which regulation was violated, therefore, the request must be flatly rejected in accordance with legal provisions."

Faella went to Government House, where he met with President Andres Rodriguez. Upon leaving Government House, Faella said the Supreme Court should adopt a clear-cut decision and not allow an insignificant request to produce massive disqualifications.

Peru

Subversives Detonate Bombs in Several Locations

PA3004041193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Subversive criminals detonated a car bomb on the morning of 29 April outside the San Ignacio de Loyola Higher Institute, a school owned by former Economy Minister Carlos Bolona and former Deputy Raul Diez Canseco. The debris from the car bomb left behind by the subversives with 25 kg of ANFO [ammonium nitrate fuel oil] and dynamite can be clearly seen. Unidentified men left a white vehicle, with license plate KI2560, a few minutes earlier while the guards were away. Only the trees suffered the impact; the houses remained untouched. The San Ignacio de Loyola Higher Institute, the target of the attack, was untouched. The Investigation and Bomb Defusing Squad is assessing the damage and the kind [as heard] of explosive used by the rebels. The charge was located in the rear of the car, but the explosion did not go off as the terrorists planned. Police took out half of the charge that did not explode because it had been poorly prepared. In other actions, the subversives carried out attacks on several banks in Lima. Property damage was limited to shattered windows, iron bars warped by the force of the explosion, and holes where the bombs were placed. The subversives planted the bombs at the following banks: Banco Mercantil, between Paruro and Cusco Avenues in midtown Lima, and Banco de Credito, located two blocks from Montevideo Avenue. Other banks also hit were: Banco Continental, on Victoria Street, between Gamarra and (Unanue), where the windows on the higher floors were

shattered; and the Banco de Credito and Interbank branches located on Circunvalacion Avenue, 18th Block in San Ruiz. All explosive charges contained ANFO and dynamite, with each package weighing from 6 to 8 kg. Almost simultaneously with this morning's attacks, a car bomb exploded at the new main offices of the Education Ministry in San Borja District. The vehicle, a red Volkswagen with license plate CG3267 carrying approximately 50 kg of dynamite and ANFO, exploded seconds after it was abandoned on Vandevelde Avenue barely 50 meters from the building's main gate. The damage to the building and nearby houses was not major. The residents complained that the building and nearby areas have almost no protection. A ministry employee reported that only a few weeks ago the San Borja Council ordered the removal of roadblocks that closed off traffic on Vandevelde Avenue.

[Begin recording of unidentified employee] It would be best if traffic was closed off, and all the more so now that the Education Ministry has a very important office here. [end recording]

Two Antonov Aircraft Donated

PY2604235493 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Apr 93 p A5

[Text] The Aero Tumi enterprise on 7 April donated to the Pueruvian Government two Antonov-An-72 aircraft worth $15 million each. The planes will carry out civic action in the most remote zones of the mountain ranges and jungle, and will provide assistance to Army units along the border areas. Receiving the important donation, President Alberto Fujimori reported that a third plane would arrive soon. He noted the exceptional advantages of the planes. He said: "They are thoroughly suited for local airstrips, as they can land and take off from 150 meter strips. They can also transport up to 10 tons of cargo." He reported that Alexander Gronchesky, head of the Aero Tumi board of directors, has a project that will have a great impact in Peru and other Latin American countries. It is an expansion project which includes the installation of an assembly and maintenance plant for Antonov-AN-72 planes.